

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 12, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment revises the claims in several respects. Some of the changes are intended to correct informalities and improve the form of the claims under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. Other changes are intended to stress an important feature of Applicants' arrangement. In particular, independent claim 15, which previously specified only that E1 channels are used to send control information (from a view station) to channel interface units, now also specifies that an information process kernel conveys control information for a network interface to channel interface units. The present Amendment likewise revises independent claim 23 to specify that view stations send control information to field terminals. This is supported (for example) by the passage at page 3 of the present application, lines 10-13.

The present Amendment also cancels dependent claim 19 as being unnecessary since independent claim 15 already recites an Ethernet data network. In addition, the Amendment adds new dependent claims 29-33 to further protect the invention. It is noted that new claims 29 and 33 specify that data captured by the field terminals are transmitted in real time. This is supported by the passage at page 6 of the application, line 24 to page 8, line 1. It is also noted that new claims 30 and 31 specify that the view station of independent claim 15 and the plurality of view stations of independent claim 23 send audio data, in addition to control information, to the field terminals. This is supported by the passage at page 8, lines 4-6.

The Office Action objects to informalities in claims 19 and 22. The objection to claim 19 is now moot because the claim has been cancelled. Claim 22 has been corrected by amending it to depend from claim 15, the intention assumed in the Office Action.

The Office Action rejects all of the claims for obviousness based on patent 6,476,858 to Diaz et al. For the sake of convenience, this reference will hereafter be called simply "Diaz." For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions defined by the current formulation of independent claims 15 and 23 are patentable over this reference.

Claim 15 previously recited that an E1 channel "is also used to send control information from a view station to the field terminal." In order to avoid any implication that the E1 channel links the view station to a field terminal directly, "from a view station" has been changed to "originated at" the view station. Claim 1 also provides that an information process kernel organizes audio, video, and alarm data "for transmission on the data network to the view station and for conveying the control information from the network interface to the channel interface units." The importance of these "control information" limitations is that the field terminals collect information that is sent (typically in real time – see new dependent claims 29 and 33) to the view station and control information flows from the view station to the field terminals. An ordinarily skilled person would realize that this permits the field terminals to be controlled in a host-slave mode. There is no suggestion of this in Diaz, where the emphasis is picking up images that are e-mailed to a PC if an alarm event is detected at the location of a remote camera.

Claim 15 specifies other features to permit transmission of detected data from the field terminals to the view station and transmission of control information from the view station to

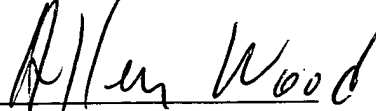
the field terminals. For one thing, claim 15 provides that E1 channels are used to couple the field terminals to channel interface units in a surveillance server, and that the surveillance server also includes a network interface that is coupled to an Ethernet data network, along with an information process kernel that basically permits two-way communication between the network interface (on one hand) and the channel interface units (on the other hand). Diaz says nothing about E1 channels or a network interface coupled to an Ethernet data network.

Unlike claim 15, independent claim 23 does not specify E1 channels or an Ethernet network. It does, however, provide that control information received from view stations is conveyed to channel interface units for transmission to field terminals. As was discussed above, Diaz does not suggest a host-slave mode of operation. Instead, Diaz's field terminals collect information and send it by e-mail if an alarm event is detected.

The remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention. They are therefore patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed. It is nevertheless noted that new claims 30 and 31 provide that audio data is sent to the field terminals. An ordinarily skilled person would realize that this feature could be used, for example, to tell a person at a field terminal that the police will be called if the person does not leave immediately. But there is no suggestion in Diaz of sending audio data to a field terminal.

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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